

In the Claims:

1. - 57. (Canceled).

58. (Currently amended) A valve actuator including: at least one piston contained within an actuator housing; and an adjustable ~~mechanism~~-member that selectively engages at least a portion of said at least one piston to selectively adjust axial movement of said at least one piston, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism~~-member is adjustable from outside the valve actuator, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism~~-member is configured to communicate pressurized fluid through an opening in the adjustable ~~mechanism~~-member to move the at least one piston against at least atmospheric pressure.

59. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 58, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism~~-member defines a one-piece actuator inlet port.

60. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 58, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism~~-member defines one piece of a two-piece actuator inlet port.

61. - 67. (Canceled).

68. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 58, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism~~-member comprises a first set screw that is threadably engaged with said actuator housing.

69. (Withdrawn) The valve actuator of claim 68, further comprising a securing mechanism for preventing rotation of said first set screw.

70. (Withdrawn) The valve actuator of claim 69, wherein said securing mechanism comprises a second set screw, assembled to the actuator housing to engage said first set screw.

71. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 59, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism~~-member comprises a shaft that engages said at least one piston to limit axial movement of said at least one piston.

72. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 60, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ comprises a shaft that engages said at least one piston to limit axial movement of said at least one piston.

73. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 58, further comprising a biasing member that biases said at least one piston with respect to said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~.

74. (Withdrawn) The valve actuator of claim 58, wherein said valve actuator is assembled to a valve comprising a valve member and a valve seat, such that said piston is coupled to the valve member to control movement of the valve member with respect to the valve seat.

75. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 74, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ is adapted to limit movement of the valve member in an opening direction.

76. (Withdrawn) The valve actuator of claim 74, further comprising a spring adapted to bias the valve member in a closing direction.

77. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 58, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ engages a stem portion of the piston.

78. (Previously presented) The valve actuator of claim 58, wherein said at least one piston comprises a flow channel for passage of fluid applied to the actuator inlet port.

79. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 58, wherein the actuator housing comprises an end cap adapted to receive said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~.

80. (Previously presented) The valve actuator of claim 79, wherein the end cap is assembled to a base portion of said actuator housing.

81. (Currently amended) A valve actuator including: at least one piston contained within an actuator housing; and an adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ that selectively engages at least a portion of said at least one piston to selectively adjust axial movement of said at least one piston, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ comprises a first set screw assembled to an actuator inlet port, the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ being adjustable from outside the valve actuator, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ is configured to communicate pressurized fluid

through an opening in the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ to move the at least one piston against at least atmospheric pressure.

82. (Withdrawn) The valve actuator of claim 81, further comprising a securing mechanism for preventing rotation of said first set screw.

83. (Withdrawn) The valve actuator of claim 81, wherein said securing mechanism comprises a second set screw, assembled to the actuator inlet port to engage said first set screw.

84. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 81, further comprising a biasing member that biases said at least one piston with respect to said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~.

85. (Withdrawn) The valve actuator of claim 81, wherein said valve actuator is assembled to a valve comprising a valve member and a valve seat, such that said piston is coupled to the valve member to control movement of the valve member with respect to the valve seat.

86. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 85, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ is adapted to limit movement of the valve member in an opening direction.

87. (Withdrawn) The valve actuator of claim 85, further comprising a spring adapted to bias the valve member in a closing direction.

88. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 81, wherein said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ engages a stem portion of the piston.

89. (Previously presented) The valve actuator of claim 81, wherein said at least one piston comprises a flow channel for passage of fluid applied to the actuator inlet port.

90. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 81, wherein the actuator housing comprises an end cap adapted to receive said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~.

91. (Previously presented) The valve actuator of claim 90, wherein the end cap is assembled to a base portion of said actuator housing.

92. (Currently amended) A valve actuator including: at least one piston contained within an actuator housing; an adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ that selectively engages at least a portion of

said at least one piston to selectively adjust axial movement of said at least one piston, and a spring that biases said at least one piston away from said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ is configured to communicate pressurized fluid through an opening in the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ to move the at least one piston against at least atmospheric pressure.

93. (Currently amended) A valve actuator including: at least one piston contained within an actuator housing; an adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ that selectively engages at least a portion of said at least one piston to selectively adjust axial movement of said at least one piston; and a spring that biases said at least one piston away from said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ comprises a first set screw assembled to an actuator inlet port, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ is configured to communicate pressurized fluid through an opening in the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ to move the at least one piston against at least atmospheric pressure.

94. (Currently amended) A valve actuator including: at least one piston contained within an actuator housing; an adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ that selectively engages at least a portion of said at least one piston to selectively adjust axial movement of said at least one piston, and a biasing member that biases said at least one piston with respect to said adjustable ~~mechanism member~~, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ is configured to communicate pressurized fluid through an opening in the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ to move the at least one piston against at least atmospheric pressure.

95. (Previously presented) The valve actuator of claim 94, wherein the biasing member comprises a spring.

96. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 94, wherein the biasing member biases said at least one piston away from said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~.

97. (Currently amended) A valve actuator including: at least one piston contained within an actuator housing; an adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ that selectively engages at least a portion of said at least one piston to selectively adjust axial movement of said at least one piston; and a biasing member that biases said at least one piston with respect to said adjustable ~~mechanism~~

member, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ comprises a first set screw assembled to an actuator inlet port, wherein the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ is configured to communicate pressurized fluid through an opening in the adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~ to move the at least one piston against at least atmospheric pressure.

98. (Previously Presented) The valve actuator of claim 97, wherein the biasing member comprises a spring.

99. (Currently amended) The valve actuator of claim 97, wherein the biasing member biases said at least one piston away from said adjustable ~~mechanism-member~~.